However, village Khutonna with census code No. 0040200 has been covered in the supplementary DPR of Madhubani district.

Sudyahi and Ghoonsahi villages have also not been covered in both these DPRs.

Autonomy to NTPC

1031. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to give more powers to NTPC, to enable it compete with private sector corporate projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which additional financial powers would increase responsibility and accountability of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. is a Navaratna Public Sector Undertaking which has been granted enhanced autonomy as per Navaratna guidelines. According to the existing delegation of powers applicable to Navaratna Companies, the ceiling on equity investment to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad shall be 15% of the net worth of the Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) in one project limited to Rs. 1000 crore and the overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the PSE. Government of India in November, 2006 had granted waiver of ceiling of Rs. 1000 crore for equity investment by NTPC Ltd. to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries for the purpose of participating in the bidding of Ultra Mega Projects subject to the implementation of maximum of two projects.

(c) In the changing power sector scenario which is going through a massive expansion phase, NTPC Limited has to resort to the joint venture model for many of its projects to contribute to a substantial share of power generation in the country. The enhanced/additional financial delegated powers would further consolidate NTPC's position as the leading thermal power generation company in India and abroad. The responsibility and accountability of NTPC will also increase to the extent of the actual exercise of such additional financial powers.

Approval for Gundia Hydro Electric Project

1032. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of Gundia Hydro Electric Project in Hassan district of Karnataka is pending with the Central Electricity Authority for approval; and

(b) if so, the present status of the case and by when the approval to the project is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have informed that no proposal for concurrence of Gundia Hydro Electric Project in Hassan District of Karnataka is pending with them for approval. However, CEA have also informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Gundia Hydro Electric Project (2 x 200 MW), located in Hassan and Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka was submitted by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) to CEA in July, 2006 for concurrence. In the absence of essential inputs/clearances, the DPR could not be processed for concurrence and was returned to KPCL by CEA on 11.08.2006. An Addendum to the DPR was submitted by KPCL in October, 2007 which had major changes from the original DPR. KPCL envisaged development of the project in two Phases; KPCL also changed the type of Turbine from Francis to Pelton wheel. Some of the Geological investigations were also not carried out by KPCL. Due to non-resolution of various issues, the DPR was again returned to KPCL on 17.01.2008 with the request that revised DPR may be submitted to CEA after carrying out the requisite Geological investigations and incorporating the necessary changes and resolution of various outstanding issues.

Kutir Jyoti Programme

1033. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural BPL households given free electricity connections, as per the norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme; and

(b) how much grant was allocated by Government for this scheme during the last two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Kutir Jyoti Programme has been subsumed under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), which was launched in April, 2005. Since then, 2027525 connections have been provided to BPL households as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme.

(b) During the financial year 2005-06 Rs. 562.16 crore and during the financial year 2006-07 Rs. 3381.13 crore were disbursed to States under RGGVY.

Allocation of power to gujarat

1034. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the unallocated quota of power by 210 MW in February, 2006 from the Central Generating Stations in Gujarat and restored only 55 MW in 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Gujarat Government has represented for restoration of the remaining quota of 155 MW; and